



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
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Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo
Permanent Representative of Portugal
18th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
New Zealand

Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the Delegation of New Zealand and to thank for the presentation of its national UPR report. Let me particularly highlight the very frank and forthright way in which the report underlines both the progresses made and the challenges ahead in protecting and promoting human rights in the country.

Portugal welcomes New Zealand's commitment to the promotion of equality and non-discrimination. In that regard we would like to recommend that New Zealand fully follows the path of ensuring equality between man and women, building on its historical credits, as the first country in the world to give women the right to vote in national elections.

Portugal also highlights New Zealand's commitment to address the causes of inequalities concerning the fruition of social, economic and cultural rights in the country, and in that context would like to recommend that New Zealand particularly addresses the question of access to education, as well as the situation of disadvantage groups of women.

Portugal also fully encourages the priority given to improving the protection of children against abuse, as well as to the reduction of violence within families and its particular impact on women and children, through the adoption of appropriate measures.

In closing, Portugal would like to recommend that New Zealand ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr President.